



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



Secrets



Stories

Explore the University of Melbourne

Burnley Campus



Discover

Melbourne's Secret Heritage-Listed
Botanical Wonderland

Welcome!

Welcome to the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus, a heritage-listed botanical wonderland, known for its century-old gardens, and leadership in teaching and research in urban horticulture and green infrastructure.



The nine-hectares on Wurundjeri Land are open for the public to explore and enjoy.

The gardens are a peaceful oasis on the banks of the Yarra in the heart of Melbourne's inner eastern suburbs.

Getting around



Explore

Download the Burnley Gardens Walk app, a self-guided audio tour through the gardens – it's free from the App Store or Google Play.

Getting to Burnley

Burnley is located east of Melbourne CBD, approximately 5km from the city centre.



Bicycle

The Capital City Trail runs along the Yarra River next to campus, and bike parking is available behind the Student Amenities Building.



Tram

Take the route 70 tram from Flinders Street to stop number 18 on Swan Street.



Train

Nearest stations are Burnley (and then tram or walk along Swan Street) or Hawthorn on the Alamein, Belgrave and Lilydale lines.



Car

Entry from Yarra Boulevard or Swan Street. Parking is available on Yarra Boulevard every day and additional parking is available off F R Smith Drive on weekends.



Facilities

Bring a picnic, use our free BBQ facilities, and dine at the beautiful Sugar Gum outdoor table. Please take your rubbish home with you! Alternatively, cafes are open weekdays in the nearby Botanicca business park.

Toilet facilities are located in Student Amenities Building during University hours. After hours, toilets are available over Swan Street bridge in the Wallan Road Reserve car park.

Access

The main paths are wheelchair friendly. Minor garden paths may be difficult for those in wheelchairs to access without assistance.

Campus Information

Burnley Gardens

The Burnley Gardens were established by the Horticultural Society of Victoria in 1861. The aim was to introduce new plants to the colonies, and promote botanical and horticultural science. Land was granted to the society on the basis that a part of the gardens remain open to the public – and this continues today. The University now manages the gardens which are principally used by the School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences.



Research at Burnley



Burnley is home to green infrastructure and urban horticulture researchers who create and embed knowledge in smart design, construction and maintenance of green spaces, trees, parks, rain gardens, green roofs and green walls in built environments to benefit people and biodiversity. Burnley is also home to urban hydrology and forest science researchers.

go.unimelb.edu.au/qj62

Teaching at Burnley



Burnley is Australia's first school of horticulture (1891) and our teaching focuses on urban greening, green infrastructure, urban forestry, garden design, people-plant interactions, the ecology and biodiversity of cities and how to sustain flourishing urban vegetation.

go.unimelb.edu.au/qj62

Living labs



The living laboratories at Burnley showcase green infrastructure research and include green roofs, a raingarden and a Woody Meadow (pictured). These are integrated into teaching and enhance campus sustainability by reducing stormwater runoff, providing habitat for biodiversity and creating cool, restorative and welcoming spaces.

go.unimelb.edu.au/szr2

Burnley Archives



The archives showcase over 135 years of teaching at Burnley and its establishment as an experimental garden in 1860. With over 5,000 items, including maps, garden plans, photographs, news cuttings, official records and artefacts, the archives bring to life the impact of Burnley's education and research, community involvement, and its historical significance.

go.unimelb.edu.au/8zr2

By the numbers

Over 600 trees

From almost 260 different species



6 trees and 3 buildings
on the Victorian Heritage Register



9 hectares
of gardens



1891

Horticultural education began

More than 3400 shrubs, vines and perennials from over 1200 species

1997 ownership of gardens was passed over to the University



3 trees

On the National Trees Register

It happened here!

Secrets+stories from around the campus

Blast from the past

The oldest tree at Burnley is a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) which is easily over 400 years old and pre-dates European colonisation.

Fruit bowl of Victoria

The gardens were the birthplace of the fruit industry in Victoria and had 2235 varieties of fruits and vines by 1888.

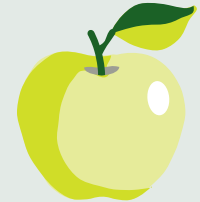


Among the animals

In the early 1900s, agriculture was taught alongside horticulture and there was a dairy herd, bull, horses and poultry on campus. Students learnt how to drive draught horses and plough fields aspart of their studies.

18 A living roof

There are three living roofs at Burnley, the largest of which is the demonstration green roof on the main building. The roof includes over 200 types of plants, with over 3000 individual plants in total! Most plants were grown onsite in the nursery.



Famous Fruit

Back in the 1800s, wax models of apples grown in Burnley Gardens and nearby orchards were made in order to showcase the many varieties able to be grown in the colonies. These wax fruits travelled overseas and were used to tout the fantastic growing abilities of the Victorian climate! These incredibly realistic models are now kept by Museum Victoria.

4 Sugar Gum Table

The Sugar Gum Table was donated by the Friends of Burnley Gardens and was made from the timber of a heritage-listed Sugar Gum, which was removed from the gardens in 2008 due to it dropping branches over cars.

Flood of 1934

The flooding of the Yarra River in 1934 took over the campus for a week. Trees were uprooted leaving big holes behind – even furniture, a cart and a piano were seen floating down the river!

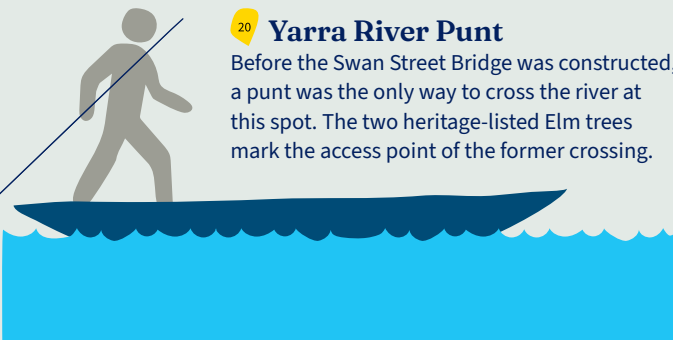
Wartime Growing

During the Second World War, the Gardens ran a vegetable growing campaign, and even temporarily produced opium poppies when normal morphine supplies were cut.



20 Yarra River Punt

Before the Swan Street Bridge was constructed, a punt was the only way to cross the river at this spot. The two heritage-listed Elm trees mark the access point of the former crossing.



Orchard Gates 9

The former orchard (field station) gates were opened in 2013 as part of the 150th anniversary of the official gardens opening. The ornamental gates were a gift of the Friends of Burnley Gardens.



Key

- 1 The Summer House
- 2 Luffmann Ponds
- 3 Grey Gardens
- 4 Sugar Gum Setting & Herb Garden
- 5 Sunken Garden & Wisteria Walk
- 6 Iconic Tree – Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*)
- 7 Shady Walk
- 8 Iconic Tree – Californian Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)
- 9 The Orchard / Field Station Gates
- 10 Azalea Lawn
- 11 Iconic Tree – English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
- 12 Perennial Border
- 13 Rose Garden
- 14 Rainforest Garden
- 15 Native (Australian) Garden
- 16 Iconic Tree – River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
- 17 Native Grassland
- 18 Main Building and Rain Garden
- 19 Ellis Stones Garden
- 20 Campus entrance and Woody Meadows
- 21 Lagoon Paddock
- 22 Swan Street Terraces
- 23 Student Amenities Building



Find the Flamingoes

See if you can find all six of our campus flamingoes on the map!

Contact Us

Visit Us

500 Yarra Boulevard
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science.unimelb.edu.au/about/our-locations/burnley

www.unimelb.edu.au

Connect with us



facebook.com/scimelb



instagram.com/unimelb



linkedin.com/showcase/faculty-of-science-unimelb



youtube.com/scienceatmelbourne

Friends of Burnley Gardens

The friends of Burnley Gardens is a not-for-profit community group which raises funds to support the Burnley Gardens.

www.fobg.org.au

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